

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

LAURIE A. RICCIO,

Plaintiff,

v.

COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL  
SECURITY,

Defendant.

Case No. C19-6126-MLP

ORDER

The following Minute Order is made at the direction of the Court, the Hon. Michelle L. Peterson, United States Magistrate Judge:

On April 27, 2020, the Commissioner submitted an unopposed motion for a stay of the proceedings. (Dkt. # 8.) The Commissioner sought a stay as it worked to regain its capacity to produce the certified transcript of record necessary to submit an answer in this matter. (*Id.*) The Commissioner represented that the current COVID-19 pandemic has impacted operations in the Office of Appellate Operations that is responsible for physically producing the transcript. (*Id.*) Specifically, the Commissioner stated staff members are teleworking and are therefore unable to perform in-person physical tasks associated with preparing transcripts. (*Id.*) The Commissioner provided a declaration from Christianne Voegelé, Chief of Court Case Preparation and Review

1 Branch 1, and Acting Chief of Court Case Preparation and Review Branch 3, of the Social  
2 Security Administration's Office of Appellate Operations in support of its motion. (Dkt. # 9-1.)  
3 The Court declined to grant a stay but granted a 28-day extension. (Dkt. # 10.)

4 On May 26, 2020, the Commissioner filed a motion for a 28-day extension to file an  
5 answer due to the limitations surrounding COVID-19. (Dkt. # 11). The Commissioner submitted  
6 the Voegle declaration outlining these limitations in support of its motion. (Dkt. # 12-1.) The  
7 Court granted the motion and directed the Commissioner to submit a status report with the Court  
8 regarding the status of the administrative record. (Dkt. # 13.) The Commissioner filed a status  
9 report on June 23, 2020 stating the Social Security Administration's Office of Appellate  
10 Operations is still not able to complete the certified administrative record in this case. (Dkt. #  
11 14.) The status report states the Commissioner will file another status report in 28 days if the  
12 certified administrative record is still unavailable, unless the Court orders otherwise. (*Id.*)

13 The Commissioner is directed to submit a motion for extension of time by July 6, 2020 if  
14 it seeks additional time to submit an answer in this matter. If the Commissioner elects to submit a  
15 motion for an extension, it must state with specificity the basis for why such an extension is  
16 required. The motion should also indicate if opposing counsel has any objection, and counsel for  
17 the Commissioner should provide a supporting declaration if there is no objection.

18 Dated this 29th day of June, 2020.

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20 MICHELLE L. PETERSON  
21 United States Magistrate Judge  
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